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Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-third session*

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Introduction

The sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 5 to 9 December 2016. In the course of the session, the Board held eight plenary meetings, the 1142nd to the 1148th.

I. Action by the Trade and Development Board on substantive items on its agenda

A. Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

Decision 529 (LXIII)

The Trade and Development Board

1. *Reiterates* the relevance of the technical cooperation pillar of UNCTAD, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi Maafikiano, in contributing to inclusive development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the tools provided by UNCTAD, such as the database of formal requests for technical assistance received from member States, while noting that more work needs to be done in order to render this an effective tool, in consultation with member States, especially regarding the inclusion of details of the proposals; and the *UNCTAD Toolbox*, which provides beneficiaries and donors with a comprehensive overview of the main products of UNCTAD;

4. *Appreciates* the implementation of results-based management by the secretariat in UNCTAD technical cooperation in line with United Nations guidelines;

5. *Appreciates also* the efforts to improve the quality of technical cooperation activities carried out by the secretariat in cooperation with beneficiaries, development partners and other international organizations, inter alia in the context of "Delivering as one", and encourages the secretariat to enhance the design, management and evaluation of technical cooperation activities in order to maximize the development impact;

6. *Takes note* of the increased level of contributions from developing countries to UNCTAD trust funds, mainly to cover projects in their own countries;

7. *Expresses concern* about the decline in funding from some traditional sources to UNCTAD technical cooperation, resulting in a shortfall and unpredictability in the funding necessary to meet the increasing demand;

8. *Encourages* developed countries and development partners in a position to do so to make multi-year contributions to UNCTAD technical cooperation, in order to increase predictability in the planning and implementation of technical assistance programmes, and to enable the secretariat to meet demands for technical assistance;

9. *Takes note* that allocation of non-earmarked funds for technical cooperation should encompass the totality of technical cooperation products offered by UNCTAD;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the secretariat to address the funding gap;

11. *Encourages* the secretariat to pursue its efforts to seek new funding partnerships, including through the pooled funding mechanisms in support of the UNCTAD-led United

Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and other innovative mechanisms such as blended finance and public–private partnerships.

1145th plenary meeting
7 December 2016

B. Other action taken by the Board

UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

1. At its 1145th plenary meeting, the Trade and Development Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat as contained in document .

Technical cooperation activities

2. Under this agenda item, the Board considered two matters.

Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

3. At its 1145th plenary meeting, on 7 December 2016, the Board adopted the draft decision on the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing proposed by the seventy-third session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme (see paragraph 6, below).

Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

4. At its 1146th plenary meeting, on 8 December 2016, the Board took note of the report by the UNCTAD secretariat () and the statements made by delegations. The Board decided, in accordance with General Assembly decision 47/445, that the report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-third session to the General Assembly would include an account of the deliberations under the agenda item.

Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

5. At its 1148th (closing) plenary meeting, on 9 December 2016, the Board decided that member States should continue their reflections and consultations on the agenda item, with the formal discussion on it to be taken up again at a later date with a view to reaching a conclusion.

Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme

6. At its 1145th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party at its seventy-third session, as contained in , and endorsed the agreed conclusions therein.

7. At its 1148th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party at its seventy-fourth session, as contained in , and endorsed the agreed conclusions therein.

8. The Board further welcomed and concurred with the realignment proposed by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in relation to consolidation, under subprogramme 3, of the two existing components into a single component on international trade and commodities.

Other matters in the field of trade and development:

9. Under this agenda item, the Board considered two reports.

Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

10. At its 1147th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law at its forty-ninth session, as contained in document A/71/17.

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

11. At its 1147th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report on the fiftieth session of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre.

Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2015–2016 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2016

12. At its 1147th plenary meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Chair (Panama) of the Advisory Body for 2015–2016.

13. The representative of one regional group noted that the UNCTAD regional and short editions of the Course on Key Issues on the International Economic Agenda supported building the capacity of policymakers dealing with trade and development issues, by enhancing knowledge, especially issues related to economic growth, technology and finance. The last regional course held in Oman had been successful, as it was informative and focused on development policies, harnessing benefits from trade and enhancing productive capacities. Praising participation in the course, with the proportion of women represented exceeding 50 per cent, significantly greater compared to the previous regional course held in Oman, he recognized the quality of regional editions and called on the Board to continue supporting the course.

14. One delegate reviewed the five multi-year venues for regional courses of 2015 and 2016, noting that they provided least developed and developing countries a better understanding of economic issues. The regional courses in 2015 and early 2016 dealt with pertinent issues, such as enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment. He noted that the regional courses had been assessed as positive, informative and valuable to participants and that the ratio of female participants from the Arab region in a recent course held in Muscat exceeded 50 per cent. A regional course for Arab economies had been delivered recently in Oman. The course provided participants with knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of trade and development policies. Regional courses dealt with various economic issues such as promoting investment and the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegate called on the Board to continue supporting regional editions of the course and looked forward to the 2017 regional courses to be held in Mauritius for African economies, Colombia for Latin America and the Caribbean and Singapore for Asia and the Pacific.

15. Another delegate expressed appreciation for the regional and short courses, noting that participation in the regional courses were of high quality and provided training opportunities for developing countries. She thanked the Government of Colombia for hosting the regional course for Latin American and the Caribbean and UNCTAD for the substantial support provided through its programme, for both regional and short courses in Geneva, and called on the Board to continue supporting regional editions of the course.

II. President's summary

A. Opening plenary meeting

General opening statements

16. The following speakers made opening statements: the Secretary-General of UNCTAD; the representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of the European Union, on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the representative of Japan, on behalf of the JUSSCANNZ group; the representative of Namibia, on behalf of the African Group; the representative of the Bahamas, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries; the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Asia–Pacific Group; the representative of Estonia, on behalf of Group D; the representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the least developed countries; the representative of Paraguay, on behalf of the landlocked developing countries; the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Arab Group; the representative of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the Group of 15; the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the representative of China; the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the representative of the Holy See; the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania; the representative of the Philippines; the representative of India; the representative of Algeria; the representative of Tunisia; the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the representative of the Republic of Korea; the representative of Zimbabwe; the representative of Japan; the representative of Kenya; the representative of Uganda; the representative of Malaysia; the representative of Ethiopia; and the representative of Morocco.

17. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD recalled his promises to member States at the start of his tenure in 2013 to optimize the visibility of UNCTAD within the United Nations system and in the international development community and to look for institutional practices that would enhance visibility and the quality of products delivered. Since then, the secretariat had followed up with concrete steps, taken in consultation with member States, to improve that visibility and deliver with impact.

18. Paving the way to the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi were a series of high-level activities aimed at increasing the visibility of UNCTAD. The expanded UNCTAD New York Office was now regularly used by member States in their consultations and brought greater visibility for UNCTAD in New York. He had also engaged the membership and leadership of the United Nations in New York on timely issues through visits and consultations. Another example was the role of UNCTAD in the lead up to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015, including at the major events hosted, as well as the enhanced mandate given to UNCTAD in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He also noted that the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa opened in Addis Ababa had found notable success with the African Union and was closely involved in regional integration efforts, including the continental free trade area. Those results were consistent with the urgings given by member States to UNCTAD on impact.

19. UNCTAD had likewise maintained its commitment to results-based management. Particularly with regard to the technical cooperation pillar, UNCTAD had embedded results-based management to the degree that those efforts had become a model to follow.

20. His recent participation in a retreat with permanent representatives in New York had focused on the new UNCTAD mandate, the Nairobi Maafikiano, adopted in July 2016 and the way forward, and how UNCTAD could further improve its backstopping support to New York delegations.

21. Expressing his appreciation, the Secretary-General thanked the outgoing President of the Trade and Development Board, particularly for his ability to steer the negotiations, and member States for the resounding mandate given in Nairobi that reflected the trust they had in UNCTAD. The mandate sought to strengthen UNCTAD, asking the organization to continue work in some areas and to undertake additional functions, in particular two new intergovernmental groups of experts. Quoting parts of paragraph 10 of the Nairobi Maafikiano, he noted that member States also specifically asked UNCTAD to strengthen its special focus on the trade and development needs of the least developed countries; support Africa to address its special concerns and needs; address the special trade, investment and development needs of landlocked developing countries; assist small island developing States to address persistent trade, investment and development challenges; give focus to the special needs and problems of structurally weak and vulnerable small economies; and support the development efforts of middle-income countries facing the challenges of sustainable economic development and poverty eradication. All of those obligations were to be met within existing resources. In the months since the fourteenth session of the Conference, the secretariat had been considering how to fulfil that mandate, which gave UNCTAD a justification for its institutional existence and a way of moving forward, without new resources.

22. The work of UNCTAD was shaped, however, by events in the United Nations international community, particularly the mandate from Nairobi and the shift in the global environment for the development community's discourse on trade and development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set out clear areas of work directly relevant to UNCTAD, unlike with the Millennium Development Goals to which economic enablers had been added as an afterthought. The ability of UNCTAD to benchmark development and trade issues and to help build capacity within member States to help realize their aspirations under the 2030 Agenda had shown the importance of its work on a contemporary matter of global priority. At the same time, anti-globalization efforts were painting international trade negatively. Yet, properly utilized, international trade was part of the solution for those who felt left behind.

23. The challenge of increasing migration due to political turbulence in the Middle East and the steady flow of economic migrants had led to a sense that isolationism was growing in popularity, even among traditionally important partners in development cooperation. Furthermore, development cooperation partners were placing efforts to address migration and refugee issues under the global international cooperation budget. The overall effect was a decline in the development cooperation component for which the international development community, including UNCTAD, competed. With the limited growth in resource availability, smart ways were needed to realize the UNCTAD mandate given at the fourteenth session of the Conference.

24. The existing development environment and the aim of modelling UNCTAD as a global leader in building productive capacity in the service of development to make optimal contributions to the world's challenges required enabling UNCTAD to position itself to that end by using existing resources. He expressed appreciation that the proposal presented at the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party to reintegrate the Special Unit on Commodities into the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities had been accepted, and noted that the proposal would be presented to the Board for approval. He recalled the

circumstances that had led to a decision taken at the twelfth session of the Conference in Accra to separate the unit from the division and place it under the Office of the Secretary-General. In the years since, the work of the unit had been weakened by the lack of a high-level head to represent its efforts when the Secretary-General or Deputy Secretary-General were unavailable, as well as no longer having the administrative and technical backstopping available from the division. The proposal thus addressed the unforeseen negative impacts of that decision. To fully and faithfully deliver more and better without additional regular budget resources, as the new UNCTAD mandate asked, could still require some additional resources from elsewhere in the United Nations family.

25. In that context, for example, a means of addressing the lack of staff to undertake work under extrabudgetary resources was needed that did not compromise other mandates under regular resources and optimized available resources and improved impact on the ground. The success of the cabinet briefings initiative begun two years earlier had encouraged the secretariat to find other ways of collaborating between divisions on knowledge products, such as through the paragraph 166 course, the Train for Trade port management programme and the Virtual Institute.

26. The Secretary-General had also taken steps, such as maximizing in-house peer reviews and ensuring that all divisions had a heads up on bold statements, towards ownership of products being seen eventually as UNCTAD products rather than divisional ones.

27. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations thanked the outgoing President of the Board for his dedication and commitment in guiding member States to a successful and ambitious outcome in Nairobi. Some regional groups urged the Trade and Development Board to agree on the range of decisions to be taken during the session as a follow-up to the new mandate.

28. The representatives of several regional groups requested resumption of the management briefings of the Deputy Secretary-General to member States. They noted that management issues should be a regular part of discussions with members. On lessons learned from the fourteenth session of the Conference, they proposed the development of guidelines on the negotiations process to better equip future negotiators. They observed that such work should be done by the secretariat with senior management buy-in and under the leadership of the President of the Trade and Development Board. The secretariat should prepare a questionnaire inviting member States to share their reflections on the Conference.

29. Many delegations recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming in relation to trade and development. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations noted the ongoing requirement for extrabudgetary resources, for instance with regard to the need to seamlessly integrate elements of women's empowerment into UNCTAD research and analysis and technical cooperation.

30. Some delegations noted that UNCTAD and member States should uphold the commitment to assist the Palestinian people through sustainable economic development programmes.

Opening statements: Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

31. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations noted the mandate provided by the Nairobi Maafikiano and reiterated their commitment to moving forward with its full implementation and addressing the new challenges, such as the creation of two new intergovernmental groups of experts to sustain the

gains made in Nairobi, and strengthening the work of UNCTAD in the context of the three pillars.

32. Overall, the representatives of many regional groups and delegations highlighted that the increased mandate coming from Nairobi was not being matched by increased resources. The representative of one regional group and many delegations noted that member States in New York should be encouraged to provide adequate resources and ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano.

33. In addition, the representatives of many regional groups and delegations emphasized that more meaningful outcomes were required from the intergovernmental machinery, beyond a summary of proceedings of meetings. In particular, the organization of certain agenda items needed to be improved, and meetings needed to provide specific policy recommendations for consideration by the Trade and Development Board. The representatives noted that cycles of intergovernmental meetings should serve as inputs for the outcomes of the quadrennial conferences. Finally, the intergovernmental machinery required an ambitious programme of work, and the other two pillars of UNCTAD needed to support that process.

34. The representatives of many regional groups and delegations noted that results-based management was not covered under a specific agenda item. They emphasized that management issues needed to be a regular and integral part of briefings to member States, and that coordination among divisions should continue to be strengthened.

35. The representatives of some regional groups and delegations proposed that, prior to a conference, member States should negotiate only the theme of a conference, not sub-themes, in the interest of time, and rather than starting with a zero draft. In addition, brainstorming sessions could be held to identify topics, a table of contents and outline could be prepared and the negotiated text could be co-drafted. The number of position papers could be reduced, there should be reflection on how to better incorporate the work of the Youth Forum and the Civil Society Forum into the Conference and the outcome document should be aligned to organizational structure rather than sub-themes. During a quadrennial conference, some regional groups suggested that the secretariat should use cloud-based solutions for document preparation, editing and sharing, establish conference services in advance, increase the number of staff servicing the conference and have high-level UNCTAD staff present during the negotiations. On the current post-conference period, the secretariat should provide an immediate analysis of how specific chapters of the Nairobi Maafikiano translated into policy and action, and provide a list of mandated changes for consideration by the Trade and Development Board in June 2017.

Secretariat response

36. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD stressed that the secretariat would take note of the guidance provided by member States and reaffirmation of the spirit and letter of the Nairobi Maafikiano, with UNCTAD as key in helping to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the broad quest of developing economies. With regard to intergovernmental processes, he noted that the secretariat would support the strengthening of such processes for clear policy decisions and strong outcome documents, as requested by member States, and that resources would be deployed to support the intergovernmental machinery as needed. With regard to management-related issues, the secretariat would continue to provide regular briefings, including on results-based management. The Deputy Secretary-

General noted that UNCTAD had been the first United Nations body to create indicators for results-based management linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, which had been shared as a model for use by other entities in the United Nations system. In addition, UNCTAD continued to work on fulfilling the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Finally, with regard to financing, the Deputy Secretary-General noted that donors needed to cover the full costs of technical assistance. UNCTAD would continue to maintain close communications with member States, in particular concerning the budget-related discussions of the Fifth Committee, including with regard to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

(Agenda item 2)

37. The Director of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, of UNCTAD presented the recent trends affecting trade, trade policy and the international trading system.

38. The discussant noted that there could be no effective trade policy if it was not accompanied by complementary social policies, and identified major challenges within current social and economic environments.

39. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of several regional groups and delegations expressed concern over the slowdown in international trade growth. With regard to services, as addressed in the background note, entitled "Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective" (), several representatives of regional groups and delegations noted their appreciation for its consideration of the talks on services taking place at the World Trade Organization, particularly with regard to the services waiver for the least developed countries. They expressed concern, however, over the challenges involved in services liberalization and cautioned against excessive reliance on services, as lack of infrastructure and capacity, including owing to the technology gap, meant that not all developing countries had benefited from the services sector.

40. The representative of one regional group highlighted the opportunities that services could present, given the slowdown in manufacturing trade, and suggested that a Generalized System of Preferences for services was a good opportunity for the least developed countries. The representative also emphasized the importance of cooperation on foreign direct investment, migration and rules and regulations to benefit from trade in services.

41. The representative of another regional group welcomed the emphasis on services, but highlighted the importance of other issues such as fisheries subsidies, agriculture and assisting small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from global trade.

42. The representative of one multilateral organization highlighted the importance of manufacturing in achieving structural transformation, and noted the need to avoid premature deindustrialization, as many services were manufacturing-related.

43. The secretariat noted that trade in services was not a complete solution, but had a fundamental supporting role, and that the services waiver was a move towards more comprehensive systems supporting the liberalization of such trade. In addition, the secretariat emphasized the importance of monitoring the implementation of the services waiver under the World Trade Organization. The secretariat highlighted that a Generalized System of Preferences for trade in services for the least developed

countries could be implemented, which might build on the long-term experience of UNCTAD with regard to a similar system for goods.

44. The discussion under the agenda item continued with a presentation by the UNCTAD Special Unit on Commodities on the background note entitled "Agricultural commodity value chains: The effects of market concentration on farmers and producing countries – the case of cocoa" ().

45. The presentation addressed market concentration and the distribution of value among stakeholders in the cocoa global value chain. The deteriorating position of dispersed smallholding farmers in a global value chain was characterized by increasingly integrated traders, processors and manufacturers. The secretariat also highlighted policy recommendations to support small-scale stakeholders at the macro, meso and micro levels.

46. One delegate acknowledged the importance of the discussion and emphasized that cocoa producers in Ecuador had succeeded in securing market access and receiving higher average prices, as compared to producers in other developing countries, due to a national strategy of product differentiation based on specific quality standards and protected geographical indication status.

47. The representative of one regional group commended the secretariat for presenting policy recommendations. He pointed out that the recommendations were valuable, but observed that the situation of producers could vary drastically across commodities and thus cautioned that conclusions from the cocoa study could not be generalized and applied to other sectors. The secretariat agreed that different commodities required distinct examination and noted that UNCTAD had carried out several studies on a number of commodities, including on the linkages between extractive sectors and other sectors of the economy. In addition, a specific study on the cotton global value chain was currently under consideration.

48. The representative of another regional group stressed that the note underplayed the development potential of global value chains for developing countries. The secretariat emphasized the importance of looking at global value chains as an opportunity for developing countries and that UNCTAD was committed to working with other United Nations agencies to address the issue.

49. The representative of another regional group proposed the prioritization of a discussion on job creation. The secretariat agreed with the need to emphasize employment and underscored that sustainable job creation had been the main theme of the seventeenth UNCTAD Africa Oil, Gas and Mines Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition held in the Sudan in 2015.

C. Investment for development

(Agenda item 3)

50. The Director of the Division on Investment and Enterprise presented the global action menu for investment facilitation, launched in the UNCTAD *World Investment Report 2016*. The Director detailed the context, concept, content and configuration of the global action menu, which was based on the *Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development* and *Investing in Sustainable Development Goals: Action Plan for Private Investments*.

51. During the interactive debate, the representatives of some regional groups noted with concern the annual investment gap of $2.5 trillion for developing countries required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and the low level of global investment, which affected productive capacity and productivity growth. In addition, several regional groups and delegates highlighted that investment

facilitation played a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, inclusive growth and job creation, and that both developed and developing countries stood to benefit from the application of investment facilitation measures.

52. In their interventions, regional groups and delegations noted the systemic gaps in national and international investment policies, and affirmed their support for the Global Action Menu as an instrument for investment facilitation that could fill such important policy gaps. They commended UNCTAD on the timeliness and quality of the updated global action menu, which was considered a high-quality reference document for investment facilitation policies.

53. Delegates welcomed the fact that the global action menu was based on the experiences of UNCTAD, including as detailed in many editions of the *World Investment Report*, and good practices in investment promotion and facilitation efforts over the past decades, and on good practices worldwide. They were particularly appreciative of the fact that the global action menu was the result of extensive consultations worldwide with a full range of investment for development stakeholders, including high-level policymakers from developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition, the private sector and civil society, as well as investment experts, including at the World Investment Forum in 2016, where global consensus in this area had emerged.

54. Key stakeholders from the public and private sectors reviewed the global action menu during two panel sessions. The panels outlined stakeholders' approaches to investment facilitation and noted that these approaches mostly reflected the UNCTAD action lines. A representative of the private sector highlighted the business community was fully aware of its responsibilities in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that investment facilitation policies, including those proposed by UNCTAD, were an important step in this direction. Some panellists presented their national approaches – namely, the investment promotion agency of Thailand, and the international investment agreements of Brazil – benchmarked against the global action menu and thereby demonstrating its adaptability. A few delegates gave examples of the facilitation of outbound investment, and some delegates stated that this could lead to partnerships with institutions attracting investment in developing countries. Several stakeholders stressed that in order to be effective, investment facilitation efforts should be undertaken not only at the national and subnational levels, but also at the international level, and that developing countries should be provided assistance. One representative emphasized that States had to work together on a global scale for investment facilitation, and that the Group of 20 could be an appropriate forum for action.

55. Several regional groups and delegates stressed the importance of improving access to capital, skills development and technology exchanges and of addressing the needs of target groups, such as women and youth. Capacity-building was needed for local small and medium-sized enterprises, to deliver on the quality, quantity and cost-effectiveness of products, create linkages between multinational enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises and develop value chains.

56. Discussions reflected support for the Global Action Menu and the UNCTAD approach, and requested UNCTAD to develop and disseminate a workplan based on the Global Action Menu and to help build capacity for its implementation. The representative of one regional group, for example, noted the user-friendliness of the global action menu and the flexibility it gave to policymakers to choose and adapt facilitation measures best suited for their countries' development needs.

57. Several delegates commended UNCTAD on its specific investment facilitation tools, such as the eRegistration and eRegulation systems, as well as the Global

Enterprise Registration portal, and requested the continuation of these technical assistance activities. Some delegates noted that investment promotion and facilitation and enterprise development went hand in hand, and requested UNCTAD to enhance its work in these areas, including the Empretec training and business linkages programmes.

58. Several regional groups and delegates highlighted the need for greater international cooperation in the area of investment facilitation and the expertise and potential role of UNCTAD, based on its global action menu, in assisting countries in the implementation of investment facilitation measures and in leading any multi-stakeholder international initiative in this respect. Delegations reiterated the importance of investment facilitation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and commended UNCTAD for its work in this area.

59. Many investment for development stakeholders commended UNCTAD on the holistic approach of the global action menu. They highlighted the benefits of facilitation in serving not only multinational enterprises, but also small and medium-sized enterprises, in addition to benefiting not only foreign but also domestic investors.

60. In summarizing the discussion, the meeting noted the challenges of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and of filling the systemic investment facilitation policy gap. Both of these challenges underscored the need for investment facilitation instruments and mechanisms at the national and international levels. In this regard, the meeting concurred on the timeliness, importance, and quality of the Global Action Menu and supported its further dissemination through the three pillars of UNCTAD, while reaffirming the role of UNCTAD in taking the lead in policy development (including with respect to new generation investment treaties), and in facilitating consensus on key elements of international investment policies and their implementation at the national and international levels, through the development of a dedicated technical assistance programme.

D. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

(Agenda item 4)

61. The Deputy Secretary-General summarized the contributions of UNCTAD to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including resolutions of the General Assembly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He highlighted the work of UNCTAD in a range of areas, including international trade, commodities, investment and enterprise development, global and macroeconomic issues, debt and development finance and technology for development, as well as with regard to the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. UNCTAD was one of the main agencies that could deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and continued to lead the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and had a particular role in the establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development and its work.

62. The representative of one regional group welcomed the work of UNCTAD in delivering on its multiple mandates and urged UNCTAD to continue its activities. The Deputy Secretary-General stressed that, as a multipurpose organization, UNCTAD worked in partnership with other agencies on a wide range of issues. He

acknowledged the challenge of effectively communicating information on its activities and on the messages conveyed by UNCTAD at major meetings and conferences, noting that the organization needed to raise greater awareness among member States of its work.

63. With regard to a request by one delegate for clarification on how UNCTAD collaborated with other United Nations entities in the area of science and technology, the Deputy Secretary-General referred to the organization's support for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including its policy review work, as well as to its role in the United Nations Group on the Information Society, World Summit on the Information Society plus 10 review and Technology Facilitation Mechanism. In addition, the work of UNCTAD in relation to the information economy, including electronic commerce, was performed in close collaboration with other relevant entities in the United Nations system.

E. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020: Fifth progress report

(Agenda item 5)

64. There was unanimous recognition of the contributions of UNCTAD to the sustainable development of the least developed countries and expression of support for its ongoing work. Representatives of regional groups and delegates called on UNCTAD to continue its support for those countries, in particular by replenishing the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

65. Although there were some encouraging trends to be noted, many delegations, including those of regional groups, expressed concern that the ambitious targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 might not be met, particularly those relating to productive capacities, the number of least developed countries meeting graduation criteria by 2020, the attainment of a growth rate of 7 per cent in all least developed country economies and the doubling of the share of their exports in world exports.

66. Many delegations called on donor countries to scale up their official development assistance to the least developed countries to meet their committed targets. Owing to the structural impediments to growth faced by those countries, they would not be able to meet the targets of the Programme of Action without substantial international assistance.

67. The representatives of some regional groups and delegates proposed the organization of an expert group meeting on developing export industries and productive capacities in the least developed countries as that would facilitate the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

68. Many delegations stated that the confirmation of the mandate of UNCTAD by the Nairobi Maafikiano to give special attention in its work on the least developed countries was an indication that its work was useful and necessary. Renewal of the mandate allowed UNCTAD to reinforce its efforts to assist the least developed countries on their path to sustainable development.

69. In the view of one delegate, rural development was directly linked to the achievement of sustainable development, given the proportion of people living in rural areas. The unchecked movement of people to urban centres in search of jobs could lead to other problems such as crime and environmental degradation.

70. With regard to graduation, some delegations noted that the least developed countries lost access to preferential measures in the international trading system and

recommended the gradual phasing out of such benefits to ensure their continued growth beyond graduation.

F. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference

(Agenda item 7)

71. Further to the opening statements under the agenda item made during the opening plenary meeting, the secretariat presented an informal paper on options to operationalize the creation of two intergovernmental groups of experts. The paper offered four options within the parameters set by the Nairobi Maafikiano, highlighting the resource implications of each option. The secretariat also gave an overview of the proposed draft terms of reference for the intergovernmental groups of experts, one on electronic commerce and the other on financing for development.

72. The representatives of several regional groups and delegations requested clarifications on issues such as the topics, overall theme and structure of and process for taking a decision on the intergovernmental groups of experts. Several representatives expressed different concerns related to some of the options in relation to the existing multi-year and single-year expert meetings. The representative of one regional group proposed an additional option for consideration, while another regional group suggested considering use of part of the time allocated to the commissions.

73. The secretariat provided clarifications on the logistics of preparing meetings and explained how different options would affect the intergovernmental machinery, noting that the decision of which option to follow for implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano depended on member States. With regard to the process for taking a decision, the secretariat recalled that, following the thirteenth session of the Conference, protracted negotiations on the topics of the expert meetings had paralysed the intergovernmental machinery for more than one year.

74. Some delegates and the President of the Board suggested that member States should aim to find convergence. Another delegate stressed that members should focus on the terms of reference and topics of the meetings of the intergovernmental groups of experts instead of on resources.

75. The President presented a proposal to guide member States in their discussions towards effective implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano, namely the options and terms of reference for operationalizing the new intergovernmental groups of experts, approach to strengthening the programmatic work of UNCTAD, follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference and agreed conclusions on the least developed countries.

76. The Board pursued its deliberations in an informal setting.

77. Following the deliberations, the representatives of several regional groups noted the constructive discussions held and the need for further engagement under the agenda item.

G. Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
(Agenda item 6 (b))

78. The representatives of 7 regional groups and 10 member States expressed appreciation for the report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people () and endorsed its findings and recommendations.

79. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD stressed the need to strengthen the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit to fulfil the mandates of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and recent General Assembly resolutions. Since the Sustainable Development Goals were a priority of the global development agenda, Palestinians should not be left behind.

80. The secretariat said that socioeconomic indicators were disappointing, owing to restrictive measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The costs of occupation for the Palestinian people were staggering and should be reported to the General Assembly, as stated in resolutions 69/20 and 70/12. The issue was currently under consideration by the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. Reporting such costs would require the establishment of a United Nations framework to estimate the costs of occupation on a regular basis. Therefore, the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit should be strengthened by regular resources (post and non-post) in accordance with the Nairobi Maafikiano, paragraph 55 (dd).

81. Most delegates, including the representative of the State of Palestine, endorsed the statement of the UNCTAD secretariat requesting member States to strengthen the Assistance to the Palestinian People Unit.

82. The representative of the State of Palestine said that UNCTAD work was essential to ensure Palestinian economic development and build international consensus to prevail upon Israel to fulfil its obligations as an occupying Power. Palestinians had lost 60 per cent of the West Bank and East Jerusalem to occupation, as well as 82 per cent of their underground water, forcing them to buy their own water from Israel.

83. Many delegates expressed support for UNCTAD work on assessing the economic cost of occupation, which denied the Palestinian people the human right to development. They also endorsed the establishment of the proposed cost-assessment framework and welcomed the contribution of UNCTAD to building Palestinian capacities and providing training and advisory services. They underscored the credibility of UNCTAD and encouraged it to continue lending technical support to Palestinians to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

84. Many delegations expressed alarm at the increasing human suffering and dire, deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They noted the impact of the destruction and confiscation of Palestinian assets and natural resources, the withholding of Palestinian revenue and the restrictions on the importation of production inputs. Furthermore, the expansion of the settlements recognized internationally as illegal should be halted to preserve the viability of a two-State solution.

85. Many delegates expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority and called on UNCTAD and the international community to increase such support and to lift the nine-year blockade on Gaza.

H. Other business
(Agenda item 11)

86. At the closing plenary meeting, the representatives of some regional groups raised the issue of results-based management and UNCTAD. One representative noted that results-based management had not been addressed under an agenda item at the session, and recalled ongoing efforts to optimize management and administrative structures, including through continuous improvement and strengthened internal accountability, and that the Nairobi Maafikiano stated that UNCTAD should continue efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in UNCTAD operations. Results-based management was a management strategy that should be based on integration of planning and budget processes for programme and operations, monitoring and reporting tools, and evaluation. Senior management were the primary users of monitoring and evaluation results, and all benefited from the approach. He encouraged senior management to continue their periodic management briefings and looked forward to continued engagement with the secretariat on results-based management throughout UNCTAD. The other representative added that UNCTAD had accepted and appreciated the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the research and analysis pillar, agreeing to implement the recommendations by the end of 2016. She requested the continuation of the management briefings and an update on progress in that regard. With regard to the revitalization of the intergovernmental machinery mandated by the Nairobi Maafikiano, results-based management constituted a systematic and informed way of improving the meetings of the intergovernmental machinery. It was important to apply results-based management to all three UNCTAD pillars of work.

87. The representative of another regional group noted that he did not agree with the stated positions on results-based management and reiterated that the position of his group was clear in that regard. He emphasized that for the regional group, as stated at the seventy-fourth session of the Working Party, results-based management at UNCTAD applied only to technical cooperation, a position that remained firm. Furthermore, he requested that the secretariat provide clarification on how the topic of lessons learned had come up, as it was not an agreed agenda item for the session of the Board but had impeded progress on other issues. He asked whether discussions of lessons learned at the Board had taken place following past quadrennial conferences.

88. The representative of the delegation of Kenya, on behalf of his Government, expressed unreserved concern regarding statements by some delegations who suggested the discussion of acceptable standards for logistics of meetings as part of the proposed lessons learned exercise following the fourteenth session of the Conference. He recalled that the UNCTAD secretariat had approved the venue and facilities proposed by his Government. The venue had served to host other high-level meetings, including the fourth session of the Conference, without any question of its acceptability and standards on record. Allegations regarding acceptable standards of electricity, microphones and the like were unfounded. He requested that the President of the Board review the above-mentioned issues and consider calling for elaboration by the delegations concerned, as the country should not be discussed under the proposed lessons learned process, which would be an affront to the generosity of the Government of Kenya and its people. The Government had offered to host the fourteenth session of the Conference under exceptional circumstances as part of its commitment to UNCTAD. Should some member States or participants have been dissatisfied with the conference facilities, the Government would ask the secretariat to refer to document , regarding the expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya, as the official record. Urging the Board to uphold

the respect and integrity of the UNCTAD family, he stated that his Government would continue to support the objectives of UNCTAD and engage with partners, as appropriate.

89. The representative of one regional group clarified that its opening statement on lessons learned did not address the hospitality of the Government of Kenya, and recognized that the venue for the fourteenth session of the Conference had been used for other international conferences without negative feedback. She suggested that revisiting processes for the preparation of UNCTAD ministerial conferences could be needed instead. She expressed the regional group's appreciation to Kenya as the host country for the successful Conference. She emphasized that the proposed lessons learned or reflection exercise was not addressed to the Government of Kenya but rather concerned preparations for the next conference.

90. The representative of one regional group expressed the group's appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for the successful fourteenth session of the Conference. He also reiterated that implementation issues concerning the Nairobi Maafikiano were the priority for the regional group.

91. The secretariat clarified that the lessons learned exercise was not on the agenda of the Board. A proposal for it had been made by some regional groups and member States, rather than the secretariat, as part of the intergovernmental process. The secretariat expressed its deep appreciation of the commitment and generosity of the people of Kenya for an excellent conference, noting that the conditions put in place by the host country had significantly contributed to its historic outcome. The secretariat also stated that it had always underscored the importance of all processes to be based on mutual respect and constructive engagement with a view to a positive effect on work. The secretariat had repeatedly raised the caution of possible, unintended, negative consequences of certain proposals. Nevertheless, the secretariat looked forward to the continued constructive engagement among all member States and was encouraged by the commitment to a strong UNCTAD and implementation of the Nairobi Maafikiano.

III. Procedural and related matters

A. Opening of the session

92. The sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board was opened on 5 December 2016 by Mr. Alfredo Suescum (Panama), outgoing President of the Board at its sixty-second session.

B. Election of officers

(Agenda item 1 (a))

93. At its 1143rd plenary meeting, the Board elected Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda) President of the Board at its sixty-third session.

94. The Board undertook the election of officers to serve on the Bureau of the Board at its sixty-third session by electing the Vice-Presidents during the 1142nd (opening) plenary and 1148th (closing) plenary meetings. Accordingly, the elected Bureau was as follows:

President:	Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr (Uganda)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Juan Falconi Puig (Ecuador)
	Mr. Alexander Opimakh (Belarus)
	Mr. Mr. Boudjemâa Delmi (Algeria)

Mr. Ryosuke Kuwana (Japan)
Ms. Julie Emond (Canada)
Mr. Taavo Lumiste (Estonia)
Mr. Daniel Carl (United States of America)
Mr. Aamar Aftab Qureshi (Pakistan)
Mr. Raphael Hermoso (Philippines)

Rapporteur: Ms. Tia Hanna (Bahamas)

95. Following established practice, the Board agreed that the coordinators of regional groups and other recognized groups of UNCTAD would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau of the Board.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
(Agenda item 1 (b))

96. At its opening plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as contained in (see annex I).

97. It was noted that there was agreement not to hold negotiations on agreed conclusions as the session was shorter than usual. Agreed conclusions on agenda item 5 would be considered during the forthcoming executive session of the Board in 2017.

D. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters
(Agenda item 10)

Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2014–2015 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2016

98. At its 1148th closing plenary meeting, the Board elected members of the Advisory Body for 2017 as follows: Mr. Juan Falconi Puig (Ecuador); Mr. Eduardo Sperisen-Yurt (Guatemala); Mr. Alfredo Suescum (Panama); Mr. Andre Pung (Estonia); Mr. Piotr Stachańczyk (Poland); Mr. Leopold Samba (Central African Republic); Mr. Negash Botora (Ethiopia); Mr. Mohamed Auajjar (Morocco); Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran); Mr. Sumit Seth (India); Mr. Frédéric Paruta (France); and Ms. Hilda Ali Rashid Al-Hinai (Oman).

99. The Board also agreed that the President of the Board would chair the Advisory Body in 2017.

Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

100. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration.[1]

Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board

101. There were no new applications before the Board for its consideration.[2]

[1] A list of the intergovernmental bodies currently in status with UNCTAD is contained in document .

[2] A list of the non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD in the general category and in the special category is contained in document .

Review of the calendar of meetings

102. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board approved the calendar of meetings for 2017, as contained in the non-paper dated 9 December 2016, with one amendment. At the request of one delegation, the dates for the intersessional panel of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development would be added for information only, as that meeting was a part of the meetings calendar for the United Nations in New York.[3]

103. The secretariat noted that the calendar would be revised after a decision was taken on the expert meetings and, thus, only included dates for the existing intergovernmental groups of experts and the sessions of the commissions, Working Party and Trade and Development Board.

Membership of the Working Party for 2017

104. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board also approved the membership of the Working Party for 2017 as follows: Austria, Brazil, Belarus, Canada, China, Estonia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Panama, the Russian Federation, Tunisia and the United States of America.

Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

105. No action was required under the agenda item.

Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

106. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board was informed that the actions taken at its sixty-third session had no additional financial implications.

E. Adoption of the report on credentials
(Agenda item 1 (c))

107. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials of representatives participating in the sixty-third session of the Board, as contained in document.

F. Other business
(Agenda item 11)

108. Also at its closing plenary meeting, the Board approved the provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, to be held from 6 to 8 February 2016, as contained in the non-paper dated 11 November 2016 (annex II).

G. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Board
(Agenda item 1 (d))

109. Consideration of the agenda item was referred to the consultations of the President of the Board. The provisional agenda for the session would be submitted for approval at an appropriate time.

[3] The official calendar will be issued as document .

H. Adoption of the report

(Agenda item 12)

110. At its closing plenary meeting, the Board adopted its report on the sixty-third session. The Board further authorized the President with the assistance of the Rapporteur to finalize the report of the Trade and Development Board to the General Assembly, taking into account the proceedings of the closing plenary. The report would also include the President's summary on substantive agenda items, the decisions and actions taken during the session and procedural and related matters.

Annex I

Agenda for the sixty-third session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:
   - (a) Election of officers
   - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
   - (c) Adoption of the report on credentials
   - (d) Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Board
2. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
3. Investment for development
4. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Fifth progress report
6. Technical cooperation activities:
   - (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
   - (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
7. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the fourteenth session of the Conference
8. Reports of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
9. Other matters in the field of trade and development:
   - (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
   - (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
10. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
    - (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2015–2016 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2017
    - (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board
    - (c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
    - (d) Review of the calendar of meetings
    - (e) Membership of the Working Party for 2017
    - (f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)
    - (g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report

Annex II

Provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth executive session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. *The Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The Road to Graduation and Beyond – Making the Most of the Process*
3. Other items requiring action by the Board
4. Other business
5. Report of the Trade and Development Board on its sixty-fourth executive session

Annex III

Attendance[4]

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Algeria
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Cuba
Czechia
Ecuador
Estonia
Ethiopia
France
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
India
Iraq
Ireland
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Madagascar
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Oman
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Zimbabwe

2. The following member of the Conference attended the session:

Holy See

3. The following non-member observer State attended the session:

State of Palestine

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

Accredited

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

[4] This attendance list contains registered participants. For the list of participants, see .

European Free Trade Association
European Union
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
South Centre

Non-accredited

Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency

5. The following United Nations organ, body or programme was represented at the session:

International Trade Centre

6. The following specialized agency or related organization was represented at the session:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session:

General category

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
International Chamber of Commerce
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Special category

World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies